

REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Official Action dated June 14, 2005. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due consideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

Claims 11 and 13 are under consideration in this application. Claims 1-10 and 12 are being cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 11 and 13 are being amended, as set forth in the above marked-up presentation of the claim amendments, in order to more particularly define and distinctly claim applicant's invention.

The claims are being amended to correct formal errors and/or to better recite or describe the features of the present invention as claimed. All the amendments to the claims are supported by the specification. Applicant hereby submits that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

Formality Rejection

The Title of the Invention was objected to as being non-descriptive, and claims 1, 4, 9-10 and 12 were objected to on informalities. The Examiner has requested correction thereof. Claims 3 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. As indicated, claims 1-10 and 12 are being cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and the specification and the claims are being amended as required by the Examiner. Accordingly, the withdrawal of the outstanding informality rejection is in order, and is therefore respectfully solicited.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 11 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and claim 13 would be allowed if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

As claims 11 and 13 are being rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and claim 13 is further being rewritten to

overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, they are in condition for allowance.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1-3, 6-8 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kitajima et al. (6,331,845), claims 9 and 10 were rejected as being anticipated by Kubo et al. (6,195,140), and claims 1-5, 7 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) by Matsumoto et al. (6,862,067). The prior art references of Lee (6,680,772) and Lee (6,710,836) were cited as being pertinent to the present application.

As claims 1-10 and 12 are being cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, the rejections thus become moot.

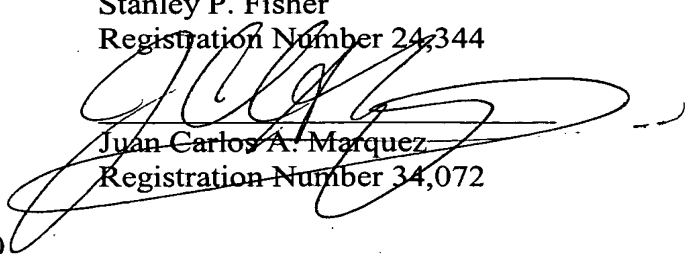
Conclusion

In view of all the above, clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention as now claimed and the prior art reference upon which the rejections in the Office Action rely, Applicants respectfully contend that the prior art references cannot anticipate the present invention or render the present invention obvious. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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